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ON A NEW EXTINCT GENUS OF SIRENIA, FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

BY E. D. COPE.

Mr. Gabriel Manigault, the accomplished director of the Museum of the University of South Carolina, at Charleston, has placed in my hands for determination an interesting fossil of that region. It is the greater part of the right premaxillary bone of a large sirenian mammal, containing the large incisor tooth or tusk characteristic of the genus *Halitherium*. It, however, exhibits the peculiarity of possessing, exterior to this tusk, a second large tooth, which is probably also an incisor. This character distinguishes the form generically from other members of the order. In *Prorastomus* Owen, there are an inferior incisor and a canine not of sirenian type, but probably no superior incisors, or if present, they are minute and conic. I propose that the genus be named *Dioplotherium*. The only form with which it is necessary to compare it is *Hemicaulodon* Cope,¹ the number of whose incisor teeth is unknown. The one from which the genus is known, has a dense external sheath of cementum, which is wanting from the present genus.

The color of the specimen indicates that it belongs to the blue-gray marl of the Carolinian (Heilprin) miocene of our Atlantic region. It has, however, been exposed to the action of the water of a later sea, as it carries the bases of several *Balani*.

The premaxillary bone differs from that of the *Halitherium minor* Cuv. (*H. serresi* Gerv.) and *H. capgrandi* Lart., in the much shorter symphysis. The nareal border is also shorter, judging from the position of the maxillary suture, which is further anterior than in the species named. The nareal border is rounded and thickened, so as to overhang its lateral face at the maxillary suture. The alveolus of the second incisor is large, and is in close proximity to that of the first. Its posterior wall is lost. Its fundus reaches to the maxillopremaxillary suture, but as its anterior wall is entirely premaxillary, the tooth is probably an incisor, and not a canine.

The anterior incisor is a tusk of flattened form, with a slight taper from base to apex, and a narrow diamond-shaped section.

¹ Proceedings Amer. Philos. Soc., 1869, p. 190.

